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National Intelligence Daily

Monday 7 May 1979

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The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the Daily, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

USSR

The US Embassy in Moscow described President Brezhnev's performance at an awards ceremony for cosmonauts on Thursday as the "poorest we have seen in recent months." Brezhnev apparently had little energy and spoke with a pronounced slur. The Embassy noted, however, that in longer speeches Brezhnev's diction and energy level frequently seem to improve about five minutes into the address. It nonetheless concluded that Brezhnev does not appear to have bounced back well from his recent illness and looks in need of another long rest.

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Iran-US

Commenting on his meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Bazargan and Deputy Prime Minister Entezam, US Charge Naas reports that Entezam now is clearly the Prime Minister's right-hand man. The departure of Ebrahim Yazdi from the Bazargan entourage to become Foreign Minister has given Entezam a greater role in the general politics of the provisional government, including foreign affairs, which had been a virtual preserve of Yazdi. Both Bazargan and Entezam implicitly believe more in Western rationalist concepts than do their theological allies in the Islamic movement. Yesterday's discussion of US-Iranian relations produced no substantive developments, and the Iranian leaders also made some effort to paint a good picture of a revolution gradually consolidating its domestic gains.

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Spain-Algeria

The US Embassy in Algiers reported yesterday that last week's visit there by Spanish Prime Minister Suarez served the purposes of both governments. A Spanish diplomat told the Embassy that Madrid, concerned over the prospect of increasing costs for gas and oil from Algeria, was pleased that Algerian officials had indicated support for greater Algerian purchases from Spain and for joint Spanish-Algerian economic ventures. The Algerians in turn scored a modest success in having Suarez meet with ranking Polisario Front officials -- in his position as a party leader, not as Prime Minister -- and in his agreement to new efforts by Spain to resolve the Western Sahara problem. According to the Spanish diplomat, Suarez repeatedly rebuffed Algerian efforts to insert in the communique language that would "dramatically worsen" Spanish-Moroccan relations.

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Syria

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The Lebanese Christian radio "Voice of Lebanon" reported yesterday that there was an assassination attempt against Syrian President Assad last week. There has been no reporting on the alleged incident from any other source.

Austria

Unofficial final returns from yesterday's election have the Socialists of Chancellor Kreisky winning 96 of the 183 seats in parliament, an increase of three over their previous slight majority. The principal opposition, the conservative Austrian People's Party, apparently lost four seats; the Communists again failed to win any seats.

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